of their abilities. So far, conferences of elected women representatives, activists, NGOs, eminent personalities have been held as under:-

1. Udaipur (Rajasthan) - 23rd and 24th April, 2006.
2. Patiala (Punjab) - 17th and 18th July, 2006.
3. Bangalore (Karnataka) - 5th September, 2006.
4. Dehradun (Uttaranchal) -24th September, 2006.
5. Imphal (Manipur) - 4th and 5th October, 2006.
6. Panaji (Goa) - 19th October, 2006.
7. Sikkim (Gangtok) - 26th and 27th April, 2007.
8. Chhattisgarh (Raipur)- 26th and 27th July, 2007.

Besides the State-level Conferences, a one-day divisional-level conference was also held on 29th November, 2006 at Jaipur in Rajasthan. Such conferences are planned for other states as well. The Government supports capacity building training programmes for elected women representatives of Panchayats so that they can effectively carry out their duties and responsibilities as envisaged in the Constitution, to take an active role in the matters relating to their village and taluk.

As regards enhancing awareness of laws and rights for the generality of elected Panchayati Raj representatives, the Ministry has been funding civil society organizations and State Governments on request.

Holding an elective office

523. SHRI MOT1UR RAHMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the meaning of holding an elective office as per the provisions of Rule 15 of the Central Civil Services(Conduct) Rules, 1964;

(b) whether contesting an election for the post of Delegate, Kendriya Bhandar is holding an elective office; and

(c) if so, the action that could be taken against a Government employee who has contested the said election without previous sanction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The term 'elective office' has not been defined. Since the term has been used in the context of trade or employment, it is understood to mean an office the appointment to which would be made through an election process by the members of the organization who have a right to vote for electing a person to such a post.

(b) Contesting is different from holding elective office. However, previous sanction of the Government is required for a Government servant for contesting or holding an elective office in the Kendriya Bhandar.

(c) The Government servant will be liable for disciplinary action in case of violation of conduct Rules.